



## Press Clipping Article

**Title:** Lewis gets \$108,000-plus in tobacco fund settlement funds

**Date:** 02/27/2007

**Source:** [Daily Independent \(Ashland\)](#)

**Writer:**

**Lead:**

Lewis County farmers will have access this year to more than \$108,000 for cost-share programs, thanks to Kentucky tobacco settlement funding.

### Article:

Frankfort — Lewis County farmers will have access this year to more than \$108,000 for cost-share programs, thanks to Kentucky tobacco settlement funding.

Programs are expected to help farmers reduce their dependence on tobacco crops by leveraging dollars for other ventures, including in cattle or commodity businesses.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board last week approved \$1.6 million in “agricultural diversification” projects across the state.

Funds were distributed on the state level, and through county ag development boards on the county level.

In the statewide pool, the Rowan County Fiscal Court was approved for \$9,239 in Rowan County Funds to administer a “heifer replacement program” in Rowan County, the development board said.

Lewis County, the only other local county in this round to receive funding at the countywide level, got \$12,636 for the Agricultural Diversification Program; \$45,744 for the Fencing Improvement Program; and \$50,000 for the Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage Program.

The Agricultural Diversification Program is designed to assist producers in the development and expansion of new agricultural products and through the development of new ways of working with existing agricultural commodities. There are 12 investment areas represented in this program.

The Fencing Improvement Program improves net farm income through improved pasture quantity, quality and efficient use of fencing for livestock producers.

The Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage Program allows producers to increase the quality and marketability of products to improve the overall farm income.

Farmers may apply for cost-share assistance in any of the programs. That is, if they qualify, they may apply for half the cost of a venture, such as building a hay shed.

Each county's cooperative extension office has more information regarding model programs and when sign-ups will be held.

The state's agriculture development program's aim is to lessen Kentucky's dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing 50 percent of Kentucky's Master Settlement Agreement with tobacco companies into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

To date, Kentucky has invested more than \$233 million to an array of county, regional and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises. The diversification programs represent more than 2,776 projects that have been funded through the Agricultural Development Fund since the inception of the program in January 2001.

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